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IN THIS ISSUE

Page

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS

Venezuela Reduces Import Duty on Wheat Products 338
Cuban Rice Importers Subject to Quota Restriction 339

FATS AND OILS

Smaller World Cottonseed Production Indicated 338

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS

World Cotton Stocks at Record Level ... 335
Belgian Flax Crop Sharply Increased ... 339
Weekly Cotton Prices on Foreign Markets 342

TOBACCO

Belgian Tobacco Production Down from Wartime Peak: Imports Resumed 342
Canada's Tobacco Production Shows Decline 343

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

Mexican Winter Vegetable Prospects 344
Brazilian Orange Crop Smaller 345
Orange Production in Mexico Smaller ... 346

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Australian Livestock Numbers Decline Sharply
British Reduce Price of Raw Wool for Export 347

MISCELLANEOUS

Late News 334

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LATE NEWS

The second official report places the 1945-46 cotton acreage in India (planted as of October 1) at 12,583,000 or 3 percent less than the second estimate of 12,957,000 acres for 1944-45. The second acreage estimate usually represents 70 to 85 percent of the final estimate.

Southern Brazil's cotton acreage in 1945-46 is expected to be considerably less than in 1944-45 as a result of some diversion from cotton planting to cereals (corn, beans, and rice). Prices of these commodities are more favorable this year and cotton growers are discouraged by the small crop and heavy losses resulting last year from early drought and excessive rain later in the season.

The second all-India peanut forecast for 1945-46 places the area at 8,690,000 acres, a decrease of less than 1 percent from the 1944-45 second estimate revised but an increase of 18 percent over the average of the corresponding estimates for the past 5 years.

Chile's final estimates of the probable grain sowings for the 1945-46 season indicates reduced areas seeded to wheat and oats and a small increase in the barley acreage. The seeded area is as follows: Wheat 1,912,000 acres, 4 percent less than last year; barley 136,000 acres, an increase of about 4 percent over last year; oats 302,000 acres.

World summary articles, scheduled to appear in Foreign Crops and Markets on the following dates, have been postponed:

December 10 - Olives and Olive Oil

December 17 - Flaxseed

December 17 - Sugar

WORLD COTTON STOCKS AT RECORD LEVEL

World cotton stocks on hand at the end of July 1945 were estimated at 26.5 million bales (of 478 pounds), compared with 26.1 million bales in 1944 and 24.1 million in 1943. The 1945 stocks are the largest on record and 4.5 million bales more than the 22 million bales estimated for July 31, 1939. World stocks continued to rise during the war, although annual cotton production in 1940-1944 averaged 4.1 million bales less than in 1935-1939.

The increase in cotton stocks reflects a sharp decline in world consumption after 1941 when Axis and Axis-occupied countries, which consumed more than 11 million bales in 1938-39, had access to less than 1 million bales annually, including about half of China's production. Reduced consumption in the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Sweden, and Switzerland also contributed to the rise in world stocks.

Cotton stocks in the United States were reduced from 13,033,000 bales on July 31, 1939, to 11,164,000 bales in 1945 owing largely to heavy exports in 1939-40 and to a high level of domestic consumption since that year. Production during 1940-1944 averaged 1.2 million bales less than the prewar (1935-1939) average, thus offsetting to that extent the loss of export trade as a factor influencing a rise in stocks.

Stocks in Brazil showed a greater increase than in any other country. The rise from about 661,000 bales on July 31, 1939 a/, to 3,750,000 bales 6 years later may be attributed to the fact that production averaged nearly 500,000 bales more during the 5 years beginning with 1939-40 than in the previous 5 years, while exports averaged 291,000 bales less during 1940-1944 (calendar years) than during the previous 5 years. This apparent increase in surplus was partly offset by a rise during the war years of about 200,000 bales in average annual domestic consumption.

In India the loss of export trade during the war was so great that stocks, estimated at about 4 million bales at the end of July 1945 were approximately double those in July 1939. Exports during 1940-41 to 1944-45 averaged only 650,000 bales, compared with an average of 2,621,000 bales for the 5 previous years. The rise in accumulated stocks, however, was checked to some extent by a reduction during the war period of about 340,000 bales in average production and a sharp increase in domestic consumption.

Stocks of cotton in Egypt, placed at 1,708,000 bales on August 31, 1945, were somewhat less than the peak carry-over of 2,032,000 bales in 1943, but still much greater than the 1939 carry-over of 209,000 bales. Stocks accumulated rapidly during the early years of the war when shipping lanes through the Mediterranean were cut off and exports were at a

a/ The cotton season in south Brazil begins March 1.

COTTON: Estimated world stocks by principal countries, July 31, 1945, with comparisons
(In bales of 478 pounds net)

Countries	Stocks on hand July 31			
	1939	1943	1944	1945
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Producing countries:				
United States	13,033	10,657	10,744	11,164
India	2,000	4,100	4,800	4,000
Egypt a/	209	2,032	1,843	1,708
Brazil	661	2,600	3,665	3,750
Mexico	175	270	385	325
Argentina	111	434	596	650
Peru	200	236	305	350
Paraguay	(10)	(75)	51	13
Colombia	(10)	80	75	(76)
Haiti	(5)	14	9	12
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	107	225	b/	b/
Belgian Congo	(150)	185	287	(200)
British East Africa	(150)	(153)	38	105
French Equatorial Africa	(25)	110	122	132
Turkey	(25)	19	170	(200)
Others c/	1,550	1,100	890	1,045
Estimated total	18,420	22,290	23,980	23,730
Importing countries:				
Spain	(25)	65	42	100
Other Europe d/	2,325	1,250	1,660	2,235
Canada	70	135	145	66
Cuba	(10)	(10)	13	21
Others e/	600	150	100	48
Estimated total	3,030	1,610	1,960	2,520
Estimated foreign total	8,417	13,243	15,196	15,036
Afloat f/	550	200	160	300
Estimated world total	22,000	24,100	26,100	26,500

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Compiled from official sources and foreign service reports or estimated on the basis of information available. Figures in parentheses are based on fragmentary data.

a/ Stocks on August 31. b/ Included with other producing countries. c/ Mostly Soviet Union and China. d/ Includes United Kingdom. e/ Japan, Australia, and Chile. f/ Approximately half of world export totals for July.

low level. Production was restricted since 1941 to less than half of the prewar average of about 1.9 million bales, and somewhat less than the average disappearance, that is, exports and consumption. For this reason, stocks have been gradually reduced, as shown on the accompanying table since the Mediterranean was reopened to allied shipping late in 1943.

Stocks in Argentina, Peru, Mexico, and other Latin American countries increased sharply after 1939 as production, except in Peru, was increased considerably, until 1945, while exports declined by more than 50 percent. Production in Peru was restricted by 20 percent after 1942, but exports declined by 50 to 60 percent, causing an increase in stocks from about 200,000 bales in July 1939 to 350,000 in July 1945.

Cotton stocks in the Axis-occupied countries of continental Europe were practically exhausted before the end of 1941, except in the Balkans where 100,000 to 125,000 bales were produced each year. Stocks in the neutral countries remained at low levels throughout the war period, especially in Switzerland, because of shipping difficulties and wartime restrictions on import trade.

Stocks in Germany, at the end of July 1945, did not exceed 5,000 bales and were not much higher in Italy, although a few thousand bales were imported in 1945 after liberation. Germany imported over 1.1 million bales during the entire war period, mostly before the invastion of Russia in June 1941, and stocks probably did not reach a level of near-exhaustion until late in 1944. Small quantities were imported from the Balkans and Turkey as recently as the early part of 1944. Stocks in all Axis and Axis-controlled countries were near a point of complete exhaustion when the war ended, but new supplies began to arrive, mostly from the United States, about June 1945.

In contrast, stocks in the United Kingdom, were small only during the period of severest shipping difficulties in 1941 and 1942 and have increased since that time to more than double the total of 800,000 bales on hand when the war started.

The relatively large stock figures for French Equatorial Africa and other minor producing areas in Africa result largely from the fact that the cotton crops in that part of the world are picked during the first half of the year and a large proportion of it is normally still on hand in July. Much of the salable cotton produced in West Africa during the war was exported to the United Kingdom and Spain without much delay. More than half of the crops of British East Africa and the Sudan was exported to India and most of the remainder to the United Kingdom. Stocks on hand at the end of July in 1944 and 1945 consisted mostly of cotton awaiting shipment.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural prospects approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report the committee consisted of Joseph A. Becker, chairman, C. M. Purves, A. W. Palmer, P. K. Norris, C. H. Barber, Kathryn H. Wylie, and A. I. Tannous.

SMALLER WORLD COTTONSEED PRODUCTION INDICATED [1]

World production of cottonseed in 1945-46 is forecast at 10.7 million short tons, 5 percent smaller than in 1944-45 and 28 percent less than the 1935-1939 average, and the smallest outturn in more than two decades. Production of cottonseed, a joint product with fiber, is determined by the same factors that influence the production of cotton. An increase above 1944-45 of one-half million tons in total foreign production is more than offset by a million ton decrease in the United States. This country's production is the smallest since the turn of the century, except in 1921. The short crop is the result of a decrease in cotton acreage, unfavorable weather conditions, late planting, heavy insect damage in some areas, and lack of proper cultivation owing to insufficient labor.

Although cottonseed is one of the world's major sources of vegetable oil, only about 5 percent of the total production entered international trade as cottonseed during the 10 years ended 1939. In normal times world trade consisted largely of the movement of cottonseed from Egypt, the Sudan, and British-African Colonies to the United Kingdom.

[1] The table accompanying this world summary appears on pages 340-341.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, chairman, C. M. Purves, C. H. Barber, Regina H. Boyle, Helen Francis, Lazar Volin, and A. I. Tannous.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS

VENEZUELA REDUCES IMPORT DUTY ON WHEAT PRODUCTS

Import duties on wheat, flour, and other wheat products brought into Venezuela were sharply reduced as of December 1, 1945. The action was taken for the declared purpose of lowering the cost of these essential foodstuffs. Imports normally amount to around 2 million bushels, the bulk of which is in the form of flour. The reduced rates are expected to be reflected in lower prices, as flour imports arrive under the new tariff schedule.

The tariff classification of items affected and the rates of duty, with conversions at the current rate of exchange, are as follows:

VENEZUELA: Import duties on specified products

Classification	Former rate		New rate	
	Bolivares per gross kilogram	Cents per 100 pounds	Bolivares per gross kilogram	Cents per 100 pounds
Wheat				
In grain	0.22	30	0.02	3
Crushed	0.28	38	0.08	11
Wheat flour	0.24	32	0.04	5

From official sources.

CUBAN RICE IMPORTERS SUBJECT TO QUOTA CURB

Rice import quotas are to be established for Cuban importers on the basis of average imports during the years 1941 to 1944, according to a decree published November 22. When the quotas are determined, import licenses corresponding to each dealer's quota will be issued by the Minister of Commerce. At that time the effective date of the decree will be announced. The purpose of the decree is to provide the Cuban rice importers with a fair share of the trade.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS

BELGIAN FLAX CROP SHARPLY INCREASED

Nearly 320 million pounds of flax straw were harvested in Belgium this year from about 60,000 acres, compared with only about 100 million pounds during the 1944 season from approximately 26,000 acres, according to revised figures of the Belgian Central Statistical Office. Early reports indicated that the yield of scutched line and tow fiber would equal about 25 percent of the weight of the straw, giving an output of around 80 million pounds of scutched line fiber and spinnable tow.

The average scutched fiber production during 1931-1935 was a little over 50 million pounds per year, or considerably less than is expected from the 1945 crop. Acreage increased before the war from a low level of about 21,000 acres in 1932 to approximately 72,000 acres in 1936, but fell back to less than 26,000 in 1944.

COTTONSEED: World production, averages 1930-34 and 1935-39, annual 1940-1945

Continent & Country	Average 1930-34	Average 1935-39	Year beginning August 1 1940	1941	1942	1943	1944 a/	1945 a/
	1,000 Short tons	1,000 Short tons	1,000 Short tons	1,000 Short tons	1,000 Short tons	1,000 Short tons	1,000 Short tons	1,000 Short tons
North America:								
United States	5,764	5,554	5,286	4,553	5,202	4,688	4,901	3,858
Mexico	93	160	144	179	230	254	258	216
Haiti	15	12	7	6	7	7	6	6
Salvador	b/	2	6	2	7	9	8	-
Estimated total c/	5,895	5,735	5,455	4,750	5,455	4,965	5,180	4,095
South America:								
Brazil	369	935	1,198	881	1,038	1,303	717	-
Argentina	97	147	118	189	253	281	170	-
Peru	145	205	204	175	171	138	165	158
Paraguay	10	20	15	16	20	37	20	-
Colombia	7	11	10	12	11	13	-	-
Venezuela	6	6	7	7	9	9	9	10
Estimated total c/	635	1,330	1,555	1,285	1,510	1,785	1,100	1,350
Asia and Australia:								
Soviet Union	843	1,640	1,434	-	-	-	-	-
India	2,192	2,591	2,840	2,861	2,196	2,456	1,654	1,841
Burma	36	54	51	36	39	50	47	-
China and Manchuria	1,523	1,593	1,314	1,343	-	-	815	837
Korea	67	91	99	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	57	140	111	136	173	165	150	112
Iran	53	84	111	98	64	39	36	38
Afghanistan	-	d/ 28	21	24	12	11	-	-
Syria and Lebanon	5	16	16	12	7	9	7	-
Estimated total c/	4,795	6,260	6,035	5,755	4,295	4,470	3,900	4,110

Africa:								
Egypt	787	1,007	1,011	923	467	394	512	581
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	85	132	131	131	146	93	154	-
Uganda	105	143	157	101	49	80	111	-
Tanganyika	10	26	31	22	22	16	7	18
Belgian Congo	36	87	104	106	101	93	86	-
French Equatorial Africa	7	d/ 20	44	46	46	47	54	-
French West Africa	16	d/ 20	6	4	-	8	12	-
Mozambique	6	16	44	59	49	49	49	-
Nigeria	12	19	32	23	12	12	10	-
Estimated total c/	1,080	1,495	1,585	1,445	940	820	1,025	1,115
Europe:								
Greece	12	33	39	25	-	6	17	19
Bulgaria	6	23	29	37	38	41	16	-
Italy	2	11	24	26	6	5	3	3
Spain	2	5	3	6	10	10	13	9
Rumania e/	-	2	5	4	4	7	14	16
Estimated total c/	25	80	105	105	65	70	65	70
Estimated world total	12,430	14,900	14,735	13,340	12,265	12,110	11,270	10,740

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. United States figures were compiled from official records; figures from other countries were calculated from lint production estimates published in earlier issues of Foreign Crops and Markets.

a/ Preliminary.
b/ Less than 500 tons.
c/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries not listed above.
d/ Average of less than 5 years.
e/ Figures for 1942 to date do not include estimates for areas ceded to neighboring countries in 1941.

11-30-45

Approximately 100 to 120 million pounds of scutched fiber (including spinnable tow) are believed to have been on hand at the time of the Belgian liberation in May. These stocks, together with the fiber obtainable from large quantities of straw from recent crops which had not been scutched, may be estimated to have been equivalent to a total available supply at that time of between 275 and 280 million pounds of fiber.

Farm units in Belgium are generally quite small, but by the use of intensive farming methods exceptionally high per-acre yields of fiber flax are obtained. The average yield of straw from the 1945 acreage is nearly 5,300 pounds per acre, about the same as in 1937, and about 24 percent greater than the average of 4,300 pounds per acre obtained in 1944.

WEEKLY COTTON PRICES ON FOREIGN MARKETS

COTTON: Price of certain foreign growths and qualities in specified markets

Market location, kind and quality	Date 1945	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria (spot)		Kantar			
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	11-22	99.05 lbs	Tallaris	32.75	27.34
Giza 7, F.G.F.	11-22	99.05 lbs	Tallaris	Not quoted	
Karnak, F.G.F.	11-22	99.05 lbs	Tallaris	38.50	32.14
Bombay (Jan. futures)		Candy			
Jarila	11-22	784 lbs.	Rupee	426.00	16.37
Bombay (spot)		Candy			
Kampala, East African	11-22	784 lbs.	Rupee	850.00	32.66
Buenos Aires (spot)		Metric ton			
Type B	11-24	2204.6 lbs	Peso	1300.00	17.56
Lima (spot)		Sp. Quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	11-24	101.4 lbs	Sol	105.00	15.93
Recife (spot)		Arroba			
Mata, Type 5	11-23	33.07 lbs	Cruzeiro	80.00	13.17
Sertao, Type 5	11-23	33.07 lbs	Cruzeiro	82.00	13.50
Sao Paulo, (spot)		Arroba			
Sao Paulo, Type 5	11-23	33.07 lbs	Cruzeiro	90.50	14.90
Torreon (spot)		Sp. Quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	11-24	101.4 lbs	Peso	88.25	17.91

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.

TOBACCO

BELGIAN TOBACCO PRODUCTION DOWN FROM WARTIME PEAK; IMPORTS RESUMED

Labor shortages and the prospect of resumption of foreign imports have resulted in sharply reduced 1945 tobacco plantings in Belgium.

Consequently, the 1945 outturn of 12.5 million pounds from 5,652 acres is considerably smaller than the all-time record crop of 32.5 million pounds from 14,722 acres in 1944 and 26.6 million in 1943, and slightly less than the 5-year (1935-1939) average of 13.6 million pounds. Prospects for 1946 point to little or no increase in acreage over 1945 plantings, according to a report from the American Embassy at Brussels. Increased production during the war years, however, failed to compensate for the loss of foreign imports cut off as a result of German occupation.

Most of Belgium's tobacco is grown in West Flanders, and consists chiefly of dark, air-cured leaf for use in the manufacture of smoking mixtures. Some is blended with imported leaf in making low-priced cigarettes. But the country's climate and soil are not suitable to the production of quality tobacco and domestic manufacturers will doubtless return to using quantities of foreign leaf in the manufacture of products for local consumption.

During 1945, Belgium resumed the purchases of leaf tobacco from abroad. Reports indicate that 20.4 million pounds of leaf have been purchased since liberation, and about 12.6 million pounds had arrived in the country by the end of October 1945. Purchases from the United States totaled 6.5 million pounds, and nearly all of this quantity had reached Belgian ports by the end of October. Purchases have been made exclusively by Government missions, and practically none of these foreign tobaccos have as yet been released through consumer channels. The low stock position and heavy consumer demands for tobacco products, which are still rationed, point to continued large tobacco purchases from foreign countries to meet Belgium's shortage of leaf.

During the period 1935-1939, Belgium's imports of unmanufactured tobacco averaged 39.9 million pounds annually and represented about 75 percent of the requirements of domestic tobacco manufacturers. The United States, chief source of leaf tobacco, supplied an average 13.2 million pounds annually, principally dark fire-cured, flue-cured and Burley. Green-River, One-Sucker, and Maryland leaf, however, were also imported in significant quantities. Belgium's second most important supplier was the Netherlands, but takings from the bonded warehouses of that country included many types of foreign leaf, even some of United States origin.

The Netherlands Indies and Brazil ranked next as sources of supply. Leaf from Balkan countries, such as Greece and Bulgaria, also was significant in the country's import trade in tobacco. When the Germans occupied Belgium in May 1940, imports from non-continental countries were cut off, and stocks of foreign leaf which were considerable at that time declined gradually thereafter aad were virtually exhausted by the end of 1943.

CANADA'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION SHOWS DECLINE

The first official estimate by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, places the 1945 crop of tobacco in Canada at 97.3 million pounds from a planted area of 93,697 acres, or nearly 8 percent less than the 105.4 million pounds produced from 88,495 acres in 1944. Production during the period 1939-1943 averaged 84.9 million pounds from 76,122 acres. Although 1945 plantings exceeded those of the previous year, unfavorable weather conditions, particularly during the early part of the growing season, and considerable insect damage contributed to reduced yields and resulted in a total smaller outturn.

Most of the decline occurred in Ontario's crop of flue-cured leaf. The Province's yield per acre in 1945 for this type of leaf is estimated at only 1,035 pounds, compared with about 1,200 pounds in 1944. Total production of flue-cured in 1945 for all Canada is placed at 79 million pounds, compared with the 1944 total of 86.7 million. Production of Burley in 1945 amounted to about 11.6 million pounds, compared with 12.2 million in 1944. The 1945 crops of dark and cigar leaf were less than those of 1944, but production of pipe tobacco grown in Quebec Province showed a considerable increase over the previous year.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

MEXICAN WINTER VEGETABLE PROSPECTS

Production of winter vegetables on the West Coast of Mexico for the 1945-46 season is indicated to be about the same as in 1944-45 or 206 million pounds. The area planted to principal winter vegetables in estimated at 55,000 acres, compared with 54,000 for the previous year. In the State of Sonora, where nearly all planting is finished, tomato acreage is nearly twice that planted in 1944-45, with the largest increase being in the Mayo Valley. Planting of peas has been increased slightly, while that of peppers has been reduced considerably. Exports from this State will start around November 10.

Plantings have not been finished in Sinaloa, but prospects indicate that tomato plantings will be reduced about 10,000 acres from the previous year, while acreage of peas and peppers probably will be doubled. In Tamaulipas, acreage is forecast to be only about one-third to one-half the acreage planted in 1944-45. Plantings were not made as early as had been expected because of the drought, and production of tomatoes has been discontinued by some growers because of loss from inadequate transportation during previous years.

MEXICO: Estimated planted acreage of winter vegetables in Sonora and Sinaloa, 1942-43 to 1945-46

	Sonora			Sinaloa		
	Tomatoes	Peppers	Peas	Tomatoes	Peppers	Peas
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
1942-43	7,010	234	5,040	35,904	2,670	817
1943-44	14,201	657	14,000	38,584	3,369	187
1944-45	9,460	726	1,272	40,005	1,879	210
1945-46	18,392	220	1,540	30,723	3,881	437

From official sources.

Exports of tomatoes from Sonora may reach 6,500 cars in 1945-46, compared with 1,982 cars in 1944-45. Peas for export may be lower even with increased acreage because the volume left for drying is expected to be larger. Peppers may also be less than the previous year. In Sinaloa, forecasts of probable exports are: 4,400 cars of tomatoes compared with about 5,800 in 1944-45, 770 of peppers, and 45 cars of peas. About 350 cars of tomatoes will be exported from Tamaulipas during the coming season, but if good yields are obtained, and no difficulties of transportation are experienced, shipments may equal last year's 550 cars. For Mexico as a whole exports of tomatoes may reach a record total of 11,000 cars, compared with 8,340 cars exported in 1944-45. Shook will be obtained easier this year than last, and prices are expected to be good if there is adequate transportation.

BRAZILIAN ORANGE CROP SMALLER

The Brazilian orange crop, the smallest since 1931, is estimated at 22,150,000 boxes, 41 percent less than the peak year of 1940 when 36,359,000 boxes were produced. Decreased production is largely the result of destruction of groves by triesteza (a root disease) and of neglect of groves owing to an inadequate supply of labor, recently diverted to industry. Since 1940, production has declined steadily, mostly in the State of Sao Paulo, where triesteza still continues its destruction wherever citrus groves contain trees grafted on sour orange root stock. Production in Sao Paulo is placed at 5 million boxes, or less than half the 13 million boxes produced in 1941. In the Rio de Janeiro district, output has declined from around 11 million boxes in 1940 to 4 million in 1945. Destruction, however, has not been as noticeable because of smaller quantities of sour root stock used, but results have been as disastrous wherever grafting was done on sour oranges.

In addition to destruction by triesteza, neglect in the care of orange groves has been responsible for a 50- to 70-percent decrease in production in certain localities in the Rio de Janeiro district. This was the result of increased wage scale and competition from industrial projects which have diverted the labor supply upon which citrus growers were accustomed to depend or made it too costly for operation.

Exports of oranges from Brazil increased until 1939 when nearly 6 million boxes were exported, 2 million each to Argentina and the United Kingdom, and about the same amount to other European countries. In 1940 exports fell to around 3 million boxes and to less than 2 million in 1941. During 1942, 1943, and 1944 exports have been a little more than a million boxes and are expected to be about the same in 1945. The bulk of the exports since 1944 have gone to Argentina.

During the next 5 years, most of the orange exports will come from the Rio de Janeiro district. The groves which supplied the oranges for the Argentina trade have been the last to be abandoned. They will be the first to be reclaimed, together with those at some distance from packing houses where transportation has caused fruit to remain on the trees.

Release of gasoline and trucks will reduce transportation costs by next season. Groves in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are being replanted by trees budded on sweet orange stock.

ORANGE PRODUCTION IN MEXICO SMALLER

Production of oranges in Mexico for 1946 is expected to be smaller than the 1945 harvest of 7,558,000 boxes. Although dry weather during the past several months did not affect the 1945 crop, it is expected to reduce the 1946 crop. Production in 1945 is 3 percent more than the 1944 crop of 7,344,000 boxes and 14 percent larger than the 6,616,000 boxes produced during the 5-year (1939-1943) period. Increase in production is attributed to the larger number of bearing trees and to the advanced maturity of a large portion of the trees which has increased output per tree. There have been no orange exports from Mexico except small shipments to Canada in 1943.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK NUMBERS DECLINE SHARPLY

Recently released estimates of Australian livestock numbers as of March 31, 1945, show an important decrease in sheep numbers of 18 million head to 105 million head, the smallest number reported since 1929. This important reduction is attributed to the severity of the drought in 1944 and during the first quarter of 1945 in important sheep raising areas. The only other reduction of similar proportions in any one year was in 1902. The droughts of 1914-15 and 1919-20 each caused decreases of approximately 10 million head of sheep. Sheep numbers in Australia, however, have remained at the high level of 100 million head or more each year, beginning with 1928, notwithstanding an average annual slaughter of 20 million sheep and lambs and losses from drought and other causes.

The number of breeding ewes at the beginning of the current season (March 31) was estimated at 46.7 million head, against 53.6 million in 1944-45, and 56.7 million in 1943-44. The number to be mated this season, according to farmers' intentions, was 40.9 million, compared with actual matings last season of 43.6 million head. Last season only 90 percent of the intended number to be mated was mated. The number of lambs marked last year was only 25.7 million head, against 33.4 in 1943-44.

Cattle numbers as of March 31, 1945, showed only a slight decrease of 50,000 head to 14.1 million head, compared with numbers a year earlier. A decrease of about 100,000 in dairy cattle was partly offset by an increase of 50,000 in beef cattle. This was partly due to the conversion of dairy cattle to beef purposes and is a continuation of the movement in evidence since 1942. The number of dairy cattle, including bulls, cows, heifers, and calves for dairy purposes in the past 2 years have decreased from 5.0 million in March 1943 to 4.8 million in 1945. Cattle for beef purposes in the same period have increased from 9.0 million head to 9.3 million head.

Hog numbers increased materially during the war years, from 1.2 million head in 1939 to 1.7 million head in 1944. During 1944-45 there was a decrease, and the March 1945 figures were 1.6 million head or 6 percent smaller than in 1944.

The number of horses continued the decline begun in 1922 and by March 1945 had fallen to the low level of 1,359,000 head or 6 percent below 1944.

AUSTRALIA: Livestock numbers,
March 1945 with comparisons

Month and year	Cattle	Sheep and lambs	Hogs	Horses
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
January 1				
1939	12,862	111,058	1,156	1,742
1942	13,561	125,189	1,477	1,611
March 31				
1943	14,005	124,615	1,563	1,518
1944	14,184	123,174	1,747	1,449
1945	14,133	105,415	1,630	1,359

Compiled from official sources.

BRITISH REDUCE PRICE OF RAW WOOL FOR EXPORT

The United Kingdom Wool Control has issued a new sales price schedule, No. 27, for raw materials required for export in any form, effective November 1, 1945. Reductions have been made possible because of the elimination or lessening of various wartime charges. Details are now available and comparisons are made in the accompanying table with Issue Prices No. 21 for the sale of wool to manufacturers producing yarns and fabrics for export which have been in effect since October 1, 1944. The price of wool exported in the raw state, however, was one-thirty-ninth higher than the prices quoted in Issue Prices No. 21.

All raw wool beginning November 1 will be sold at the same price, according to the new schedule (Sales Price No. 27), whether required for the domestic trade or for export in its existing state or as yarn and fabric. These prices conform to those quoted internationally "ex warehouse" Dominions, including current commercial costs from source to the United Kingdom. On production of evidence that any portion of material so purchased has been used in the home civilian trade or for government contracts, the Control will refund to the user the difference between the higher selling prices (No. 27) and the lower (No. 23) home trade issue prices. a/

The reduction in the prices of raw wool (combing types) for export, compared with those in effect since October 1, 1944, is 6.1 to 6.6 cents per pound, the greatest reduction being in 56s super (fine crossbred) and in coarse wool (44s prepared). Reduction in the clothing types ranged from 5.4 cents a pound for New Zealand sliped lambs of medium grades to 3.9 cents for Cape shorts 64s/70s (fine clothing wool). Reduction in the fine Australia wools ranged from 4.3 to 4.6 cents a pound.

a/ Home trade price No. 23 was published in Foreign Crops and Markets November 19, 1945.

UNITED KINGDOM: Controlled ceiling price per pound, clean scored basis, of specified types of colonial raw wools for export

Description	Effective Oct. 1, 1944 No. 21		Effective Nov. 1, 1945 No. 27
	Cents a/	Cents b/	Cents c/
Combing types			
64s warp	65.6	(67.3)	61.0
56s super	57.6	(59.1)	52.5
48s average (carded)	42.9	(44.0)	37.8
48s hog (yearling lamb.	44.5	(45.6)	39.5
44s prepared	40.8	(41.8)	35.3
Clothing types			
Australian fleece 70s	68.9	(70.7)	66.4
Australian locks 60s/64s	47.1	(48.3)	43.7
Australian skin wool 64s	66.8	(68.5)	63.0
Cape 64s/70s shorts	55.5	(56.9)	53.0
New Zealand second pieces 50s/56s	43.3	(44.4)	39.5
New Zealand sliped lambs 50s/56s	47.1	(48.3)	42.9

Official sources. Converted at official rate of exchange.
a/ Price at which wool will be issued to the manufacturer producing for export. b/ Calculated on information that prices of raw material for export were one-thirty-ninth higher. c/ Prices at which all wool will be sold regardless of use - appropriate rebates, based on home issue prices No. 23, will be paid or allowed by the Wool Control on material for use in home civilian trade or in government contracts.